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The Modern Household. By MARION TALBOT and SOPHONISBA PRESTON BRECKINRIDGE. Boston: Whitcomb & Barrows, 1912. 8vo, pp. vi+93. \$1.00 net.

This little book aims "to indicate the wide range of interests which are the field in which the progressive housekeeper may serve and enjoy." It attempts to state rather than to solve the problems faced by the conscientious mother in apportioning expenditure upon various objects, in buying food and clothing, in employing domestic service, in assigning tasks to her children, in requiring sanitary methods and fair working conditions within the business enterprises which she patronizes, and the like. Each of the ten chapters is followed by a page or two of questions provocative of discussion, and by a list of recent books treating relevant topics at greater length.

While the book is no manual of housekeeping, it has a practical rather than a theoretical tone. The authors do not hesitate to give advice upon points which seem to them clear. For example, they say that meat should not be eaten more than once or at most twice a day (p. 30), that the kitchen should never be closed to the children (p. 70), that the family budget should be considered in a family council in which even the youngest child has a voice (p. 76), and that the housekeeper "will appropriate the ballot as a domestic necessity" (p. 86). But on most of the problems raised the writers express no definite conclusion, because the problems involve indeterminate elements—choice among various aims of living, or scientific knowledge which research has not yet provided.

As here presented the housewife's task seems, not easier, but more difficult than is commonly supposed. To show the precise character of these difficulties, however, may well be the best way of preparing to overcome them. It is certainly a service to disprove the current illusion that the factory system has left the housewife without a job. Her work in spending money differs from that of her grandmother in making goods; but it demands at least as much intelligence, taste, judgment, and conscience as were required of colonial dames.

WESLEY C. MITCHELL

LONDON

The American Occupation of the Philippines, 1898-1912. By JAMES H. BLOUNT. New York: Putnam, 1912. 8vo, pp. xxi+664. \$4.00.

In view of the discussion which is taking place over the Democratic proposal for Philippine independence, Judge Blount's book is of timely interest. The author was an officer in the volunteer army, serving in Cuba and the Philippines